



United States Congressman — First District, Nebraska
JEFF FORTENBERRY

TRANSCRIPT:

**Fortenberry (NE-01) reintroduces the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* with Representative Dingell (MI-13)
July 12, 2019**

CONGRESSMAN JEFF FORTENBERRY (NE-1):

Beautifully said Debbie, thank you so much. Thank you all for being here. I believe this is the single most exciting public policy development in the conservation space that has happened in decades. And I want to commend my colleague Debbie Dingell for picking up this mantle and working steadily and consistently, through thick and thin, leaning into the problems with all of the staff help here, and outside partners as well, to work towards some consensus around the fundamental goal. And it's really three things: This protects ecosystems; it enhances community; and it supports recreation. That's why we have a diverse group of persons who are very interested in coming and aligning around this space. From people who are interested in natural security, environmental security, people interested in community recreation. Sportsmen, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, people who want to protect butterflies all aligned so beautifully. And how does it happen? By actually funding a federal mandate in a more creative fashion, helping states improve their state wildlife management plan, working in

voluntary capacities to create continuity of habitat, that again creates tremendous opportunity for enhanced recreation, hunting, and protecting pristine ecosystems that are absolutely necessary for the survivability and the thriving of wildlife in our country. Debbie is exactly right—What this does is it moves us upstream from the emergency room procedures of the *Endangered Species Act*. When something goes wrong, we'll act. But why not make something go right? Why not move from regulation and litigation to collaboration and conservation? And, meanwhile, that saves huge amounts of government and societal resources, while enhancing recreation and sporting opportunity. It's a winner. So, that is why I am proud to be here with my great colleague Debbie Dingell, who clearly brings a passion into this space, inherits a long tradition in her family of making things happen in this space, and I love the way you said it, "We are going to get this done." Thanks so much.